"The more we know about family violence, the less we stand to become a victim."

Attitudes Towards Family Violence:

A survey of adults in the Yukon

September 2002

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank the following for their contribution to this study:

Bradford Associates for permission to use their survey.

The Department of Justice for their contribution to the funding of the research.

The Yukon Bureau of Statistics for conducting the survey.

The organizations and government departments who reviewed and advised on the survey, including:

Family Violence Prevention Unit, Department of Justice

Family and Children's Services, Department of Health & Social Services

RCMP

Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council

Yukon Women's Transition Home (Kaushee's Place)

Watson Lake shelter (Help & Hope for Families)

104-06050/

CONTENTS

Executive Summary
1

Introduction
3

Method, Response Rate and Sample Characteristics
5

Results
6

References
34

Appendix
35

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The rate of violent crime in the Yukon is the third highest in the country and showed a sharp increase between 2000 and 2001.

Men comprise the majority of offenders in reported cases of spousal assault in the Yukon. The majority of incidents involve alcohol.

Yukoners are concerned about family violence – four out of five people surveyed were concerned or very concerned. Concern was higher among women than men.

Most people said that physical abuse of a partner is what comes to mind when they think of family violence. Smaller percentages also said that physical abuse of a child, and emotional or verbal abuse of a partner or child came to mind. Less than a fifth of people mentioned physical or emotional/verbal abuse of elders/seniors and less than 10% mentioned sexual abuse of children.

A third of those Yukoners who took the survey said they thought the number of family violence incidents in the Yukon had increased in the last five years. A further third thought the number had stayed the same. Women and urban Yukoners more commonly thought it had increased compared to men and rural residents. Men more commonly did not know and rural residents more commonly thought the rate had stayed the same.

Half of those surveyed thought that the rate of family violence was higher in the north and they mainly linked this to drug and alcohol consumption rates in the north. Other reasons included the isolation and climate of the north and the economic situation.

Less than a third of those surveyed thought that the rate of family violence is NOT higher in the north. The main explanation given was a belief that location of residence is irrelevant to the occurrence of family violence.

The most commonly cited causes of family violence were: alcohol abuse, the psychological disposition of the abuser (such as low self-esteem), family poverty/financial stress, a history of growing up with family violence, drug abuse, unemployment/work stress and problematic relationships within the family.

When asked how family violence might be prevented in the Yukon the most frequently given answer was *more education and awareness*. Other common answers were prevention through *counselling* (of abusers, victims and witnesses to violence) and *more skills training* in parenting, life skills and anger management. There were differences in the answers given between women and men, and between First Nations and non-First Nations respondents.

A series of attitudinal statements were listed which fell into five broad categories addressing causes, responses, abuse of seniors and elders, abuse of children and abuse of women. The statements which elicited the greatest consensus and strongest responses related to alcohol, reporting suspected child abuse, whether victims are 'asking for it', and, whether family violence is other peoples' business.

- The Yukoners surveyed showed awareness of the availability of a wide range of services to help people deal with family violence. The two most common services named, although given by fewer than half of respondents, were women's shelters and the RCMP.

- There was no single resource that most people said they would go to for information and counselling if they, or someone they knew, were a victim of family violence. The most common answer, the RCMP, was given by less than a quarter of respondents.

- Key themes emerging from the 'any other comments' section largely reiterated and re-emphasized points raised earlier in the survey about the need for: stiffer penalties for abusers, greater funding for programs, service provision for abused men, and more services in the communities, especially counselling services. There were comments made about the legacy of the mission schools on First Nations.

INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE OF THE SURVEY

In November 2001 the Women's Directorate commissioned the Yukon Bureau of Statistics (YBS) to conduct a study of attitudes towards family violence in the Yukon. The purpose of the survey was to:

Identify public attitudes and opinions of Yukon residents towards family violence;
Assess and compare gender, ethnic and geographical similarities and differences in attitudes towards family violence;
Collect baseline data for examining the impact of public education campaigns; and
Collect information for effective, targeted public education campaigns.

FAMILY VIOLENCE IN CANADA

In considering the extent and the degree of family violence in Canada, measurement is disadvantaged by the difficulties associated with the collection of reliable and valid data. There are two main sources of data currently available, namely victimization surveys such as the 1999 General Social Survey (GSS) on Victimization – which has the advantage of including incidents not reported to the police and other agencies – and statistics based on assaults and homicides reported to statutory agencies, such as the police Unified Crime Reporting (UCR2) survey.

The GSS on Victimization shows similar rates of spousal assault for men and women, 8% of women and 7% of men said they has been assaulted by a current or former spouse in the past five years (Statistics Canada 2001). Data based on reports to the police indicate that *reported* spousal assault is higher among women. This is thought to be due to a number of factors, particularly the greater severity of assault experienced by women (Statistics Canada 2002).

In 2000, 85% of victims of spousal violence reported to police in the UCR2 were women. Women made up the vast majority of victims in all categories of spousal violence reported to the police in the same survey. For example, of the sexual assaults between spouses, 98% were against women and 2% against men. For homicide and attempted murder of a spouse, 72% were female victims and 28% male (Statistics Canada 2002). Even though reporting is higher among women, the Violence Against Women survey revealed that only 14% of female victims of violence reported violent incidents to the police (Status of Women Canada 1998), while 22% did not tell anyone at all (Rodgers 1994).

Based on the GSS on Victimization, First Nations women are at the highest risk of spousal assault. The survey indicates that, in the previous five years, First Nations women (25%) were twice as likely to be assaulted by a current or former spouse than First Nations men (13%). This was three times the rate for non-First Nations women (8%) and men (7%) (Statistics Canada 2001).

The same survey found that approximately 7% of all seniors and elders surveyed reported experiencing emotional abuse by an adult child, caregiver or spouse in the previous five years. A further 1% reported physical or sexual violence and 1%, financial abuse. Police statistics from the URC2 survey indicate that adults over 65 had the lowest risk of being a victim of violent crime. Non-family members were twice as likely to victimize seniors or elders as were family members (Statistics Canada 2002).

A quarter (23%) of the child and youth victim assaults reported to the police in the UCR2 survey in 2000 were by family members; for sexual assault this rose to 30%. Perpetrators of assault within the family are most likely to be parents, followed by siblings. Generally, young males are more likely to be victims of physical assault (62% of victims), while young females are significantly more likely to be victims of sexual assault (80% of victims) (Statistics Canada 2002).

FAMILY VIOLENCE IN THE YUKON

However, neither the GSS on Victimization nor the UCR2 survey include the Yukon. Current Yukon police statistics do not record the gender of the victim for reasons of confidentiality. In 2001, there were 153 incidents of spousal assault reported to the RCMP in the Yukon, 42% to the Whitehorse detachment and the remainder to detachments in the communities. Of the incidents in the Yukon, the offenders were men in 81% of cases, 7% of offenders were women, and both men and women were the offenders in the remaining 12% of incidents. Alcohol was involved in 82% of all reported spousal assaults (YBS 2001). The rate of violent crime in the Yukon, including spousal assault, is the third highest in the country (after Nunavut and NWT) and showed an increase of 12% between 2000 and 2001 (YBS 2002).

Victim Services provides another source of Yukon-specific data on family violence. The client profile for Victim Services for 2001/02 shows they had a caseload of 1,026 victims of family violence, 70% of whom were women.

PUBLIC ATTITUDES TOWARDS FAMILY VIOLENCE

With regard to researching public attitudes towards, and awareness of, family violence, this is the first survey to be conducted across the Yukon. Attitudinal surveys have been carried out in other jurisdictions in Canada: in Manitoba (Public Opinion on Domestic Violence Issues in Manitoba 2001); Prince Edward Island (Family Violence Survey 2000); the Prince Albert area (Attitudes Towards Violence 2000); and Calgary (Survey on Calgarians' Attitudes Towards Family Violence 1999).

The Yukon survey of attitudes towards family violence uses a modified version of the PEI survey and the results from the two show some similar general patterns in relation to:

- Levels of concern about family violence;
- Attitudes towards the frequency of family violence in the previous five years;
- The causes of family violence, particularly substance abuse; and
- Ways of preventing family violence.

The Yukon survey provides local information about public attitudes and opinions with which to inform territorial awareness campaigns, programs and educational activities. The actual incidence of family violence in the Yukon may not match the perception of those surveyed. However, the study provides the Women's Directorate with a gender-based analysis of attitudes towards family violence, upon which its work is focused.

METHOD, RESPONSE RATE AND SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS

In 2000 the Community Coalition for Violence Prevention of Prince Edward Island (PEI) conducted a telephone survey of public attitudes towards family violence. In the Yukon survey, the PEI questionnaire was modified and the methodology adapted by the YBS to include rural/urban, and First Nations/non-First Nations. The questionnaire included both closed and open questions.

YBS carried out the interviews by telephone between November 2001 and January 2002. A random sample of residential telephone numbers in the Yukon was drawn so that all households with a telephone had the same chance of participating in the study. An adult (aged 19 or over) was randomly selected for interview within each household. The survey was anonymous. Quotas of men, women, First Nations, non-First Nations, urban and rural residents were set in order match the sample with the structure of the Yukon population.

YBS and the Family Violence Prevention Unit trained telephone interviewers to ensure sensitivity to the nature of the subject matter.

The answers to the open questions were written out in full by the interviewers and were later transcribed, coded and quantified. These data also provide depth to the structured questions and verbatim quotes are incorporated throughout the report. The YBS and the Women's Directorate carried out data analysis.

RESPONSE RATE AND SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS

A total of 1,183 telephone numbers were selected of whom 950 responded (80%). With a sample of 950, there is a 95% certainty that the results are within +/-4% of what they would have been had the entire adult population of the Yukon been interviewed. The margin of error is higher within each of the survey sample sub-groups (see appendix). Due to the sensitive nature of the subject matter, the refusal rate for this survey was high. A high refusal rate may introduce bias into the sample. Table 1 shows the demographic characteristics of the sample.

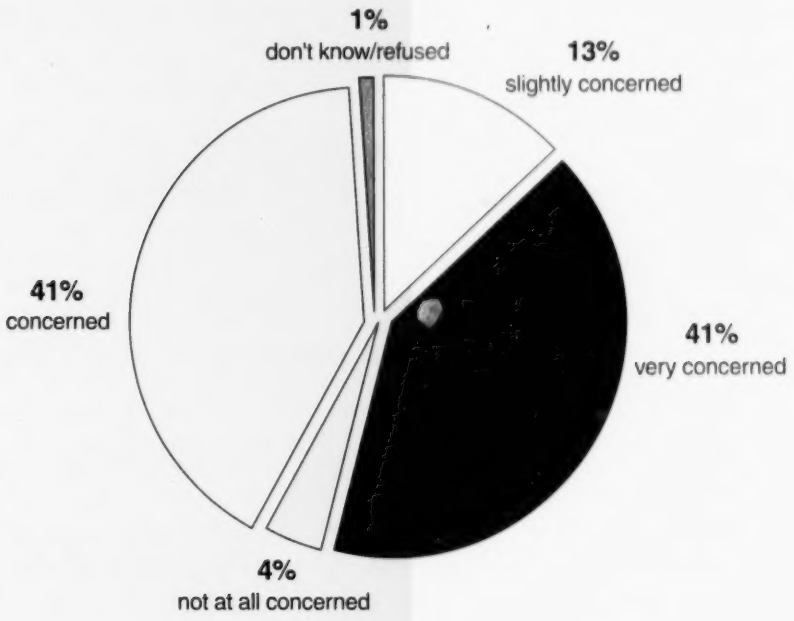
Table 1: Demographic characteristics

CHARACTERISTIC	Number	%
Gender	**943**	**100**
Female	519	55
Male	424	45
Geography	**940**	**100**
Urban (Whitehorse)	503	54
Rural	437	46
Ethnicity	**935**	**100**
First Nations	147	16
Non-First Nations	788	84

The total sample size was 950. In the table numbers are lower than this where data are missing. A more detailed table of sample characteristics can be found in the appendix.

Q1 How concerned are you about family violence in the Yukon?
Yukoners are concerned about family violence. Chart 1 shows that four out of five (82%) people surveyed said they were *concerned* or *very concerned*.

Chart 1: How concerned are you about family violence?



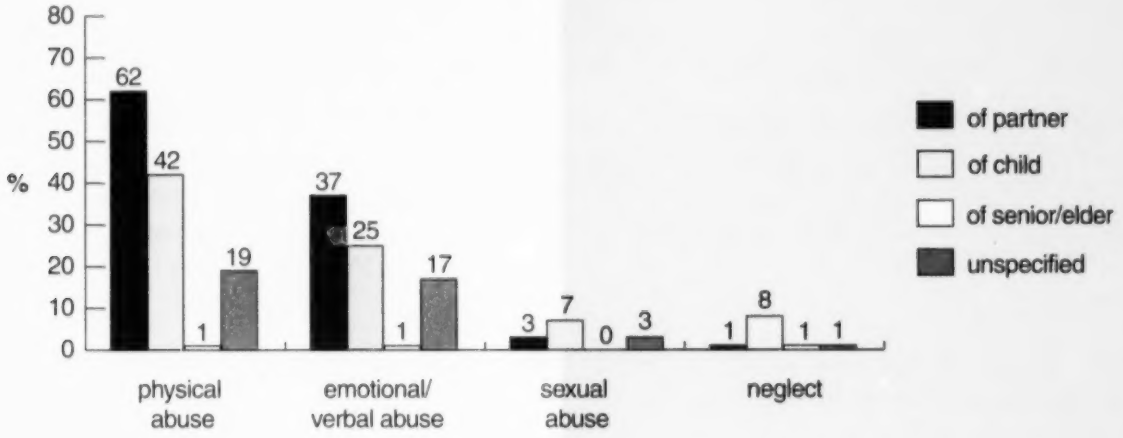
Concern was higher among women (47% were *very concerned* compared with 34% of men). A quarter of the men surveyed (25%) were *slightly* or *not at all concerned* (compared to 12% of women). There were no differences between First Nations and non-First Nations people, or between urban and rural dwellers.

"It is a good thing that the government is looking into family violence because it is certainly a problem."
(Non-First Nations woman, urban)

Q2 When you think of family violence what comes to mind?
This was an open question and most people provided answers that combined at least one type of family violence, such as physical abuse, with at least one victim within the family, such as a child. Chart 2 shows that the most frequently mentioned combination was physical abuse directed at a partner or spouse.

"Spousal abuse is husbands beating their wives or wives being abusive to their husbands."
(First Nations woman, urban)

Chart 2: When you think of family violence what comes to mind?



Physical abuse and emotional/verbal abuse were the *types* of abuse identified most commonly. Sexual abuse and neglect were infrequently mentioned and primarily in relation to children. Partners/spouses or children were the *victims* of abuse most commonly mentioned. Abuse of seniors/elders was rarely mentioned.

> *"Mental abuse is playing 'head games', putting someone down, being controlling of someone else and verbal abuse is shouting, ranting and raving, being over-critical."*
> (Non-First Nations woman, rural)

Not shown in the chart above were the 14% of people who specified neither the *type* of abuse nor the *victim* of abuse. This included abuse *witnessed* by a partner (3%) or by a child (5%); and *financial* abuse of a partner (1%) or senior/elder (0.5%). The other *victims* of abuse mentioned by small numbers of people included extended family members, teenagers, parents, siblings, and disabled people.

Generally women and men gave broadly similar answers; however, higher percentages of women talked about verbal/emotional abuse towards either a partner (39% compared to 34% of men) or a child (29% compared to 22% of men).

> *"Sometimes if a woman is raised by an abusive father she may come to expect abuse and may unknowingly promote the chances of it happening."*
> (Non-First Nations woman, rural)

A higher percentage of non-First Nations people mentioned physical abuse of a partner (65% compared to 52% of First Nations) and of a child (45% compared to 31% of First Nations). Non-First Nations were also more likely to mention verbal/emotional abuse of either a partner (38% compared to 30% of First Nations) or a child (28% compared to 16% of First Nations).

A higher percentage of First Nations respondents specified neither the type of abuse nor the victim of abuse (22% compared to 12% of non-First Nations).

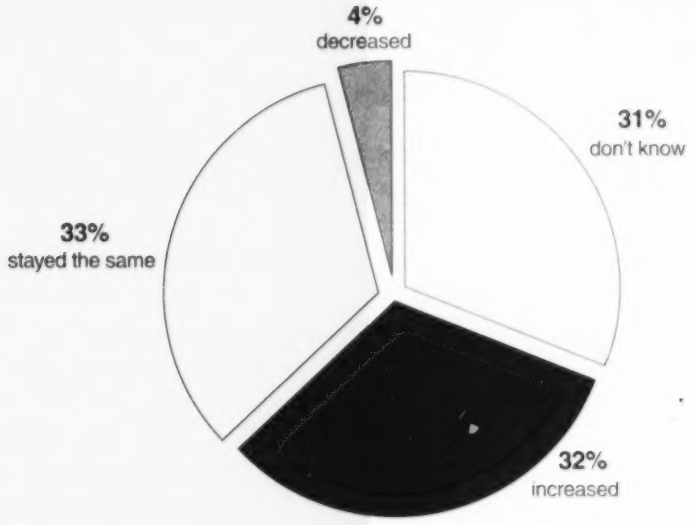
"It could be any family member doing the abusing; parents against each other, against their kids, or the bigger kids against the younger ones."
(First Nations man, rural)

Urban Yukoners more commonly mentioned physical abuse of a partner (67% compared to 57% of rural residents), verbal/emotional abuse of a partner (40% compared to 33% of rural residents) and verbal/emotional abuse of a child (29% compared to 22% of rural residents). A higher percentage of rural residents specified neither the type of abuse nor the victim of abuse (18% compared to 11% of urban residents).

Q3 Over the past five years, do you think the number of family violence incidents in the Yukon has decreased, increased or stayed about the same?

Chart 3 shows that a third of Yukoners surveyed felt that the number of incidents of family violence had *increased* in the Yukon in the past five years. The same proportion felt that it had *stayed about the same*. A small proportion of people thought it had *decreased*. A sizeable percentage of people were unable or unwilling to offer a prediction about the change in the number of incidents in the Yukon.

Chart 3: Over the past five years, do you think the number of family violence incidents in the Yukon has decreased, increased or stayed about the same?

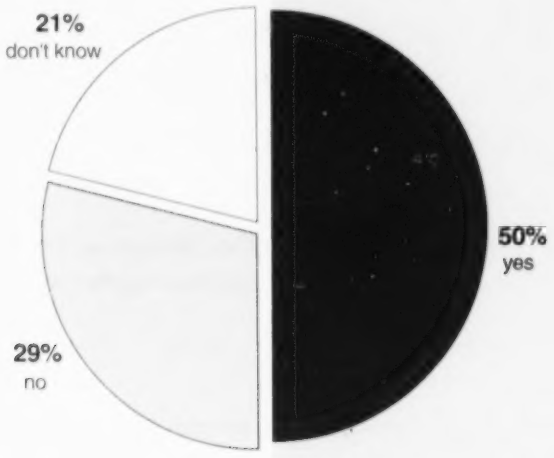


The view that family violence incidents have *increased* in the last five years was more commonly held by women (36% compared to 28% of men). The response *don't know* was more common amongst men (34% compared to 29% of women) and non-First Nations people (32% compared to 25% of First Nations). Urban residents were more likely to say that they thought the number of family violence incidents has *increased* (37% compared to 27% of rural Yukoners).

"I do not know about numbers, but certainly people are becoming more open and comfortable in the reporting of such incidents. Therefore family violence has become more identifiable and there may be more disclosures because of that."
(Non-First Nations man, urban)

Q4 Do you think the rate of family violence is higher in the north?
In chart 4, half of Yukoners surveyed felt that the rate of family violence is *higher* in the north while 29% *did not*. A fifth said they *didn't know*. There were no significant differences between sexes, ethnic groups and geographical residence.

Chart 4: Do you think the rate of family violence is higher in the north?



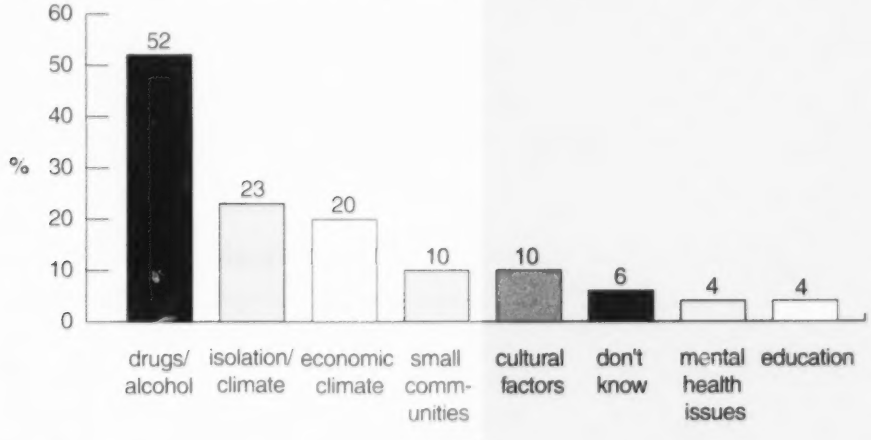
In an open question we asked people to say **why** they did or did not think the rate was higher in the north.

Why do you think the rate of family violence is higher in the north?
The results are shown in chart 5.

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL
Of those who said family **violence** is *higher* in the north the main reason given was substance abuse.

"The sales of alcohol in the north are the highest in Canada."
(Non-First Nations woman, rural)

Chart 5: Why do you think the rate of family violence **is** higher in the north?



Isolation and climate

A quarter mentioned the isolation and climate of the north as being contributing factors to higher rates of family violence.

"Because of the weather people get stuck inside all winter."
(First Nations man, urban)
"They get bushed."
(Non-First Nations man, urban)

Economic factors

Economic factors were mentioned by a fifth, these included unemployment, poverty and seasonal work.

"When there are no jobs, tension builds up in a family and violence may be the only outlet to take out frustration."
(First Nations man, rural)

Small communities

Small communities in the north mean that people are aware of family violence happening around them more than in cities.

"Perhaps it is more visible in small communities."
(Non-First Nations woman, rural)

Cultural factors

Cultural factors included the impact of residential schools...

"The winter months are depressing and the effects of the residential schools are felt."
(First Nations woman, rural)

...and cultural acceptance of violence.

"It's because these guys know they can get away with it, they know all they will get is a slap on the wrist."
(Non-First Nations man, urban)

Mental health

Mental health issues included seasonal affective disorder and stress.

Education

The category 'education' included levels of education and standards of education in the north.

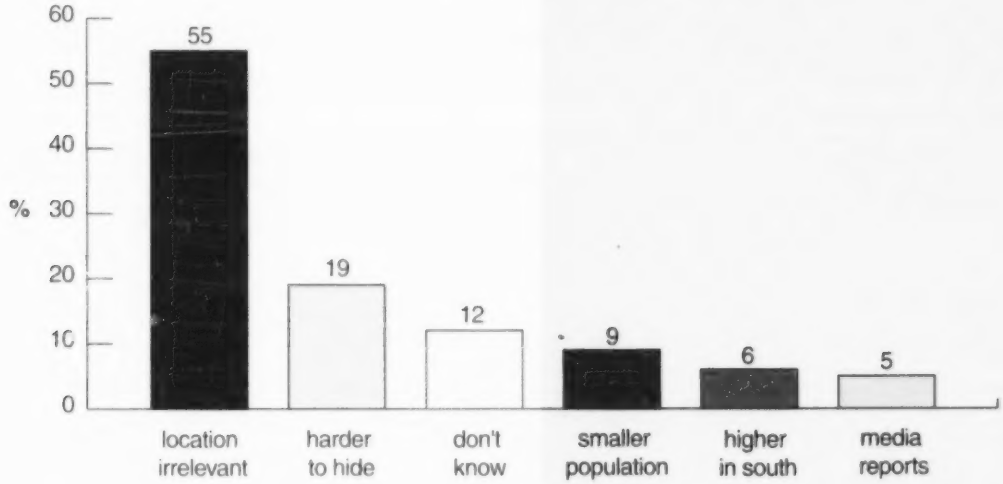
Why do you think the rate of family violence is NOT higher in the north?
The results are shown in chart 6.

Location is irrelevant

Among those who said they thought family violence is NOT higher in the north, the most common reason was that location is irrelevant and family violence happens everywhere.

"I think it's the same wherever you go."
(Non-First Nations woman, rural)

Chart 6: Why do you think the rate of family violence **is not** higher in the north?



Harder to hide family violence in the north

A fifth of people surveyed thought that family violence is harder to hide in the north compared to the south.

"It might be more visible in smaller northern communities."
(First Nations man, rural)

Smaller population in the north

Although the question asked about the *rate* of family violence, 9% thought there was less in the north because there is a smaller population.

"There's just more people in the south."
(First Nations woman, rural)

Rate of family violence is higher in the south

A small proportion thought the rate of family violence is higher in the south.

"I lived in the south and violence is more prevalent there."
(Non-First Nations woman, urban)

MEDIA REPORTS THE RATE IS HIGHER IN THE NORTH

Based on reports in the media, 5% of people said they did not think family violence is higher in the north.

"Just from reading the paper it seems to be the same amount as in the cities."
(Non-First Nations woman, urban)

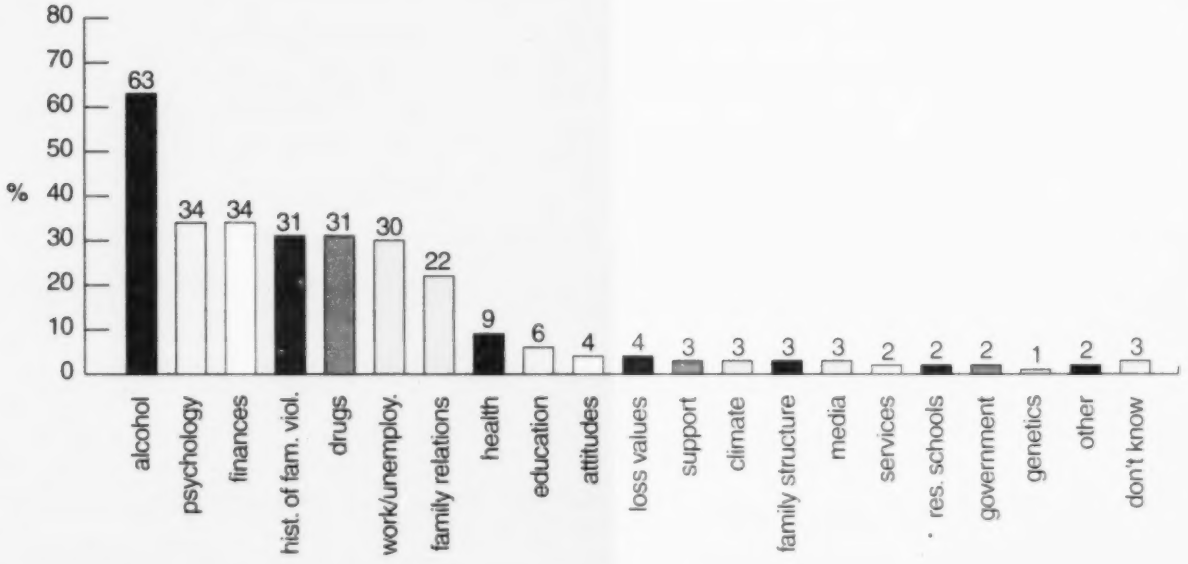
DON'T KNOW

Twelve percent (12%) said they did not think the rate of family violence is higher in the north but could not say why.

Q5 What do you think causes family violence?

This was an open question. In recognition of its complexity, people did not tend to isolate one cause of family violence. The 886 people who answered the question provided an average of three causes each. Many people qualified their answers by saying that the factors they identified were not necessarily the root *causes* as such but rather *triggers* to family violence. As shown in chart 7, the most common answer was alcohol abuse.

Chart 7: What do you think causes family violence?



ALCOHOL ABUSE

Nearly two thirds identified alcohol as the cause of, or trigger for, family violence. It was stated more commonly by First Nations people (69% compared to 62% of non-First Nations) and by rural residents (70% compared to 57% of urban residents).

PSYCHOLOGY

A third identified psychological traits in the abuser as causes of family violence. Most commonly low self-esteem but also anger, selfishness, aggression, lack of respect for others, and controlling behaviour. Women, non-First Nations and urban residents identified psychological factors more often than men, First Nations and rural residents.

"Family violence is caused by the insecurities of the abuser. An insecure person will try to control others and may use violence to do it."
(Non-First Nations man, urban)

Financial pressures/poverty

Poverty and financial stress can cause/trigger family violence according to a third of those surveyed. While it was mentioned by a third of non-First Nations, less than a quarter of First Nations mentioned it. It was also mentioned more commonly by urban than rural residents.

"Poverty introduces a lot of stress into the family."
(Non-First Nations man, urban)

History of growing up with family violence

The fourth most common answer was that people who grow up with abuse and violence in their families are more likely to be abusers themselves or to be victims of abuse. Women were almost twice as likely as men to locate the cause with an abusive childhood (39% of women and 21% of men).

"I think if you are raised with it you are more likely to do it, it's a learned thing as a way of dealing with problems."
(First Nations woman, rural)

Drugs

Drugs were rarely mentioned as a cause/trigger in isolation but usually they were mentioned with alcohol.

"Any mood altering drug or alcohol reduces inhibitors to violence."
(Non-First Nations man, rural)

Work/unemployment stress

Just less than a third of people mentioned stress relating to work itself or, most commonly, to a lack of work as causes/triggers to family violence. This included comments about unemployment, seasonal employment and a poor economy resulting in fewer job opportunities.

"I think the poor economy is at the bottom of it, people have no work, no money, and bills to pay."
(Non-First Nations man, rural)

Family relationships

Over a fifth of people gave answers relating to family functioning, parenting skills and the relationship between a couple such as poor communication skills, infidelity and arguments. Men more commonly gave these kinds of answers, 27% compared to 18% of women.

"I think it is caused by a lack of family skills; you need a license to drive but you don't need one to be a dad."
(Non-First Nations man, urban)

Although the remaining causes/triggers identified were each cited by fewer than 10% of those who answered the question, they reveal significant reasons as to why people believe family violence happens in the Yukon. They are:

Health issues

These answers included mental or physical health problems that may cause/trigger family violence, such as depression, fetal alcohol syndrome, chronic physical illness and disability.

Education

Poor levels of general education were said to be a cause of family violence, as was a lack of education about family violence itself.

Attitudes

Men's attitudes towards women were perceived by men and women to be a cause of family violence.

> *"Men's attitudes can cause family violence. Some men consider their wife to be their possession, they rule the roost and women have no rights at all."*
> (Non-First Nations man, urban)

Loss of values

A loss or lack of family, religious or cultural values were identified by some people as causing family violence.

> *"The loss of traditional values and ways of living in the First Nations means people don't have good examples, and so don't know how to be, parents, husbands or wives."*
> (First Nations man, rural)

Lack of social support

Answers included geographical separation from customary sources of support for the family such as extended-family members, as well as a lack of support from the community.

Northern climate

As seen in Q4 above, people in the survey associated family violence with climate in the north, especially the long winters leading to isolation, a lack of sunlight, and cabin fever.

Family structure

Most of the comments in this group related to the impact on the family of two working parents, the stress of being a single parent and having children when very young without adequate maturity.

Media violence

The portrayal of violence in films, video games and on television was seen to cause family violence and to desensitize people to violence.

Lack of services for family violence

A lack of accessible services to help people deal with family violence, particularly counselling services in the communities, was identified as a cause by 2% of people.

Legacy of residential schools

Overall 2% of people identified residential schools as a cause. Among First Nations people 6% cited this legacy to be a root cause of family violence in their communities.

> *"I feel residential schools are to blame for a lot of family problems for those who attended and for the children of those who attended."*
> (First Nations man, rural)

Government departments

Various government departments were perceived to have created problems that are seen as causes of family violence – the response of the judicial system to offenders, the quality of the education system and interventions by social workers.

Genetics

A small minority thought that a tendency towards family violence is something people are born with.

"Some people are just naturally violent."
(Non-First Nations women, urban)

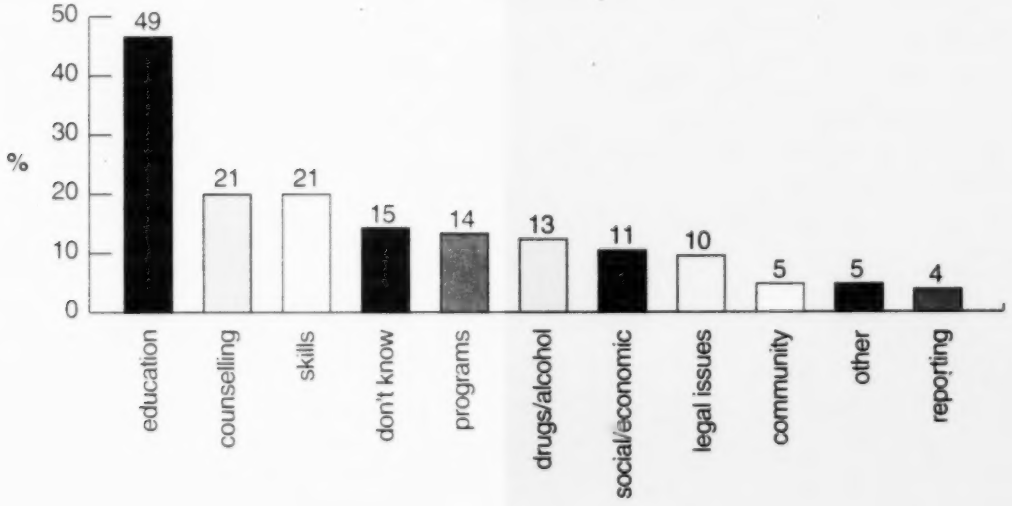
Other/Don't know

Other causes/triggers, each mentioned by one or two people, were: other addictions, specifically gambling and bingo; the secrecy surrounding family violence; and interference from other people, especially in-laws. Twenty-four people said they did not know what causes family violence.

Q6 What do you think could be done to prevent family violence in the Yukon?

This was an open question and the people surveyed offered a wide range of suggestions as to how family violence in the territory might be prevented. A total of 894 people made suggestions and, as shown in chart 8, half pointed to some form of education of the public, of young people, and a general raising of awareness.

Chart 8: What do you think could be done to prevent family violence in the Yukon?



More Education and Awareness

People made comments focusing on education/awareness *about* aspects of family violence as well as comments about *to whom* education/awareness should be directed.

Education/awareness *about* aspects of family violence included:

- What family violence is, that it is not only physical abuse, and that it's not 'normal';
- The unacceptability of violence and abuse; and
- Where to get help from the services and programs already available in the Yukon.

"We need to increase awareness of the problem and try to eliminate the shame surrounding being a victim of abuse."
(Non-First Nations woman, urban)

To whom education/awareness should be directed:

- The public, through awareness campaigns using leaflets, workshops, TV information campaigns and education programs.

"We need a massive education campaign similar to the drinking and driving campaign."
(Non-First Nations woman, urban)

- All children and teenagers.

"Teach young people that you don't need to take or give abuse and that certain actions are just not acceptable."
(Non-First Nations woman, rural)

- Those affected by family violence.

A higher proportion of women identified education/awareness as ways of preventing family violence (58% compared to 37% of men). Non-First Nations were more likely to mention education/awareness (51% compared to 39% of First Nations).

MORE COUNSELLING

Counselling and treatment was mentioned by a fifth of people (190 people).
This category included counselling for:

- The whole family affected by family violence;
- Those perpetrating violence within the family, and bullies; and
- The victims of family violence.

It was highlighted that in order for counselling to have credibility it must be seen to be confidential, especially within rural communities. There was also mention that there should be more counsellors available and better access to them.

Counselling was mentioned by higher percentages of women (26% compared to 16% of men), First Nations (27% compared to 20% of non-First Nations) and rural residents (25% compared to 18% in Whitehorse).

"There are often long waiting lists for counsellors so there should be more government money spent on developing programs and on training counsellors."
(Non-First Nations woman, urban).

More Skills Training

Again, a fifth of people surveyed (187) mentioned that some kind of relationship skills training would be useful to prevent family violence, this included:

- Parenting and family skills training, which may include classes or out-reach work for adults and children;
- Life/relationship skills training, to develop respect for self and others, self-esteem, self-help and communication skills for adults and in schools for children;
- Anger management skills and conflict resolution, for adults and those in school; and
- Stress management skills.

Non-First Nations were more likely to mention skills training (22% compared to 14% of First Nations).

"I think we have to teach young people more relevant life skills in school, we have to teach positive lifestyles so that we can change attitudes and behaviours that they might be learning at home."
(First Nations man, rural)

More/improved family violence programs and services

A number of suggestions were made regarding programs and services related to family violence, by 14% of people surveyed (129).

These included:

- General comments about developing the currently available services and programs to support people affected by family violence, such as more training for social workers, more culturally specific services, more prompt service provision and faster access to programs, more services in general, especially in the communities;
- Comments about services to meet the needs of male victims of family violence;
- Ideas for services such as a 24-hour help line or crisis line for potential abusers to access support in a time of crisis, and for victims of violence to get support and information;
- More financial assistance to enable victims to leave abusive partners;
- More funding for family violence services in general; and
- Better follow-up and support of those convicted of family violence offences.

A higher proportion of women (19% compared to 9% of men) and First Nations (20% compared to 13% of non-First Nations) identified family violence programs and services as ways to prevent family violence.

"There needs to be more help available in small communities, usually nothing happens until someone is really hurt."
(First Nations woman, rural)

More drugs and alcohol services

One hundred and twelve people mentioned substance abuse prevention and suggested dealing with drug and alcohol problems by:

- Providing more appropriate services for people with substance abuse problems, including a treatment centre in the Yukon;
- Addressing the problem in rural communities; and
- Providing more information about drugs and alcohol.

> *"There needs to be an alcohol dry-out centre in the Yukon so that people can get help with this sickness without having to leave their family."*
> (First Nations woman, urban)

Sixteen percent (16%) of First Nations people surveyed mentioned drugs and alcohol services as a means of preventing family violence (compared to 12% of non-First Nations). A higher proportion of rural residents identified drug and alcohol services (16% compared to 10% of urban residents).

> *"More restrictions on liquor laws would help, restrictions might include not having as many liquor outlets and decreasing the amount of hours that liquor is served."*
> (Non-First Nations man, rural)

Address social and economic factors

A variety of social and economic factors were mentioned by 11% of those surveyed (99 people). Most of these comments related to the economy and the perceived importance of employment to self-esteem and hence family violence prevention.

Comments included:

- Greater availability of jobs and jobs which are well paid;
- Access to job skills training;
- Financial support to enable one parent to not work and to care for children;
- Improved social assistance for those unemployed; and
- General improvement in the socio-economic situation of the territory.

Twelve percent (12%) of non-First Nations people surveyed mentioned socio-economic issues compared to 7% of First Nations.

> *"We need to change and address the socio-economic problems which underlie family violence and other social ills, a band-aid approach is not effective."*
> (Non-First Nations man, urban)

ADDRESS LEGAL ISSUES

Ten percent of participants (91 people) mentioned legal issues.

Most common amongst these related to sentencing:

Stiffer penalties for abusers.

"Stiffer penalties for those who commit offences might be a deterrent and also send the message to victims that this does not have to be tolerated."
(First Nations woman, rural)

A zero-tolerance approach to family violence by the RCMP and the courts;
Changes to legislation such as improved child protection; and
The need for compassion when dealing with abusers.

"We need other ways of dealing with family violence from a compassionate perspective rather than a criminal or revenge mentality."
(Non-First Nations woman, urban)

Eleven percent (11%) of non-First Nations people surveyed mentioned legal issues compared to 7% of First Nations.

IMPROVE COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND SUPPORT

Five percent of participants (42 people) mentioned the role of the community in preventing family violence through:

More activities and things to do in the community, and

"I think the government should take an active role in trying to stabilize family by spending more money on a community level on better socializing facilities like squash courts or a bowling alley, we need after hour activities families can do."
(First Nations man, rural)

More support from the community.

"Maybe we could create a less stressful environment for families with more community support."
(Non-First Nations man, rural)

Ten (10) percent of First Nations people surveyed mentioned community activities and support compared to 4% of non-First Nations.

IMPROVE REPORTING

Forty people mentioned reporting family violence as a way of preventing it, through:

Early identification of it occurring;
Better reporting by victims by encouraging them to come forward;
Better reporting by the community;
Reducing the stigma associated with family violence; and
More action by teachers and the police.

"Citizens should have more of a role, we need to know what to do if abuse is happening, we have to stop turning away. We need a way to flag those at risk so that they can be supported."
(Non-First Nations woman, urban)

OTHER

This category includes a range of topics, each mentioned by a small number of people, including:

- Improving general education levels;
- Addressing bullying in schools; and
- More research into the area of family violence.

A few people felt that nothing else could be done to prevent family violence in the Yukon.

Q7 Attitudes towards family violence

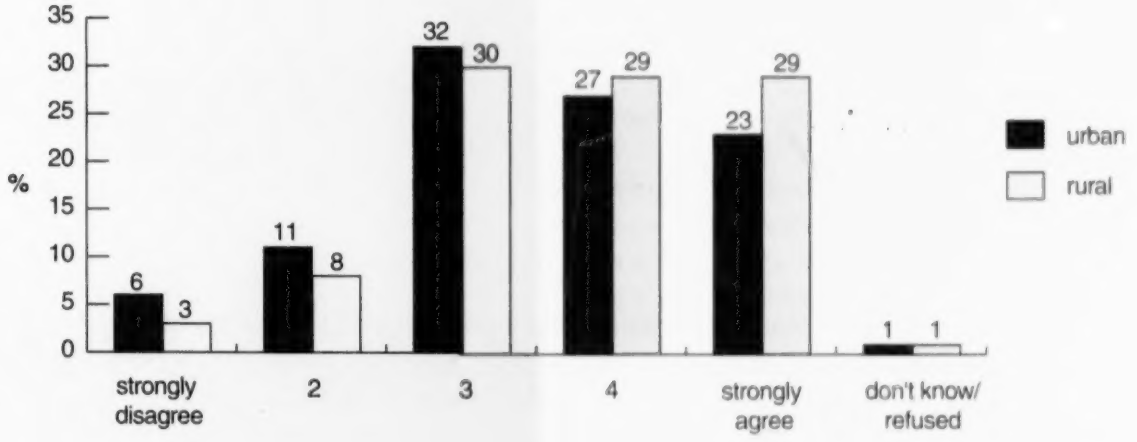
A series of 21 statements were read to participants to which they could respond on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 was *strongly disagree* through to 5 which was *strongly agree*. The statements fell into five groups: causes of family violence, responses to family violence, abuse of seniors and elders, abuse of children and abuse of women. In the text below, overall *agreement* means a rating of 4 combined with *strongly agree*. Overall *disagreement* means a rating of 2 combined with *strongly disagree*.

1. CAUSES OF FAMILY VIOLENCE:

- **Unemployment causes family violence**

Overall, over half (54%) *agreed* that unemployment causes family violence, while 14% *disagreed*. Overall *agreement* was higher among First Nations people (60% compared to 53% of non-First Nations). Chart 9 shows that *agreement* was stronger among rural Yukoners (29% *strongly agreed* compared to 23% of urban residents).

Chart 9: 'Unemployment causes family violence' shown by geographical residence

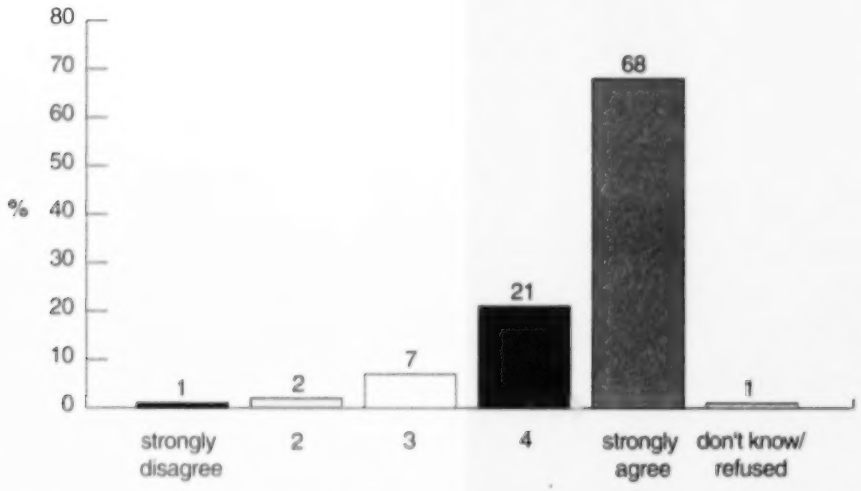


"I think stresses like unemployment are triggers not necessarily causes."
(First Nations woman, rural)

Abuse of alcohol causes family violence

In chart 10, over two thirds of people *strongly agreed* that alcohol abuse causes family violence, 89% *agreed* overall. Only 3% of people *disagreed*.

Chart 10: 'Abuse of alcohol causes family violence'



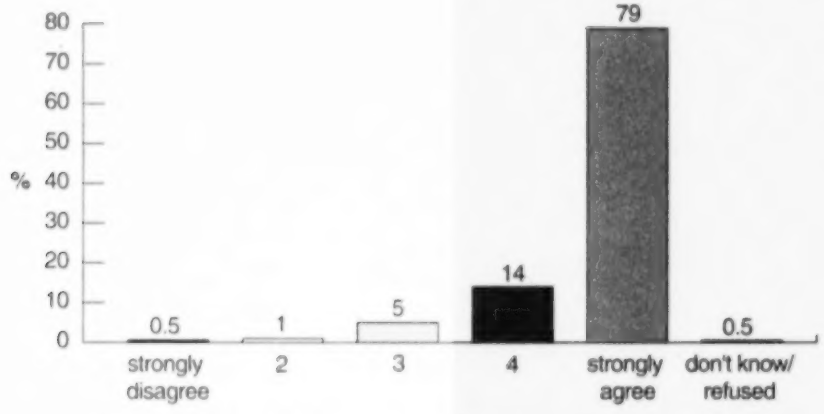
Agreement was stronger from First Nations Yukoners (79% *strongly agreed* that alcohol abuse causes family violence compared to 65% of non-First Nations) and from rural residents (75% *strongly agreed* compared to 61% of urban residents).

"I think superficially the cause of the abundance of incidents is alcohol, but there are huge social underpinnings."
(Non-First Nations man, urban)

People should be held responsible for their abusive behaviour when they are drunk.

As shown in chart 11, the vast majority of people *agreed*.

Chart 11: 'People should be held responsible for their abusive behaviour when they are drunk'



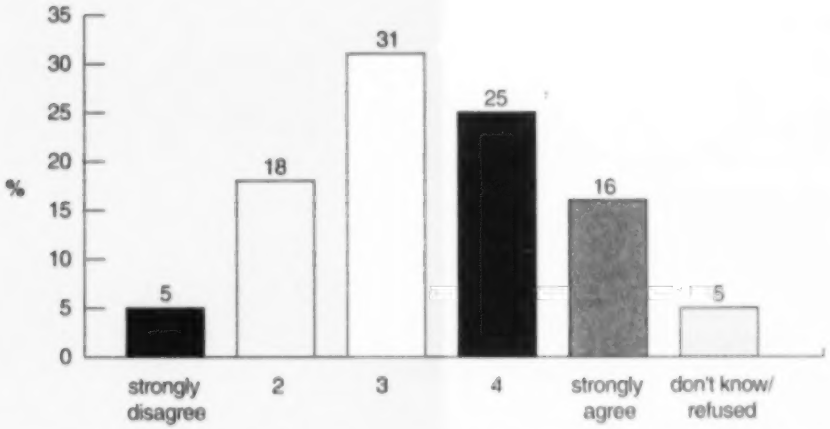
Agreement was stronger among non-First Nations (80% *strongly agreed* compared to 72% of First Nations) and rural residents (83% *strongly agreed* compared to 76% of urban residents).

"No one forces a person to drink so they should be responsible for their actions."
(Non-First Nations man, rural)

- **People with low incomes experience more family violence**

Chart 12 shows that this statement did not elicit strong opinions. The 1993 Violence against Women survey showed no major differences in violence in families in relation to income or education (Rodgers 1994).

Chart 12: 'People with low incomes experience more family violence'

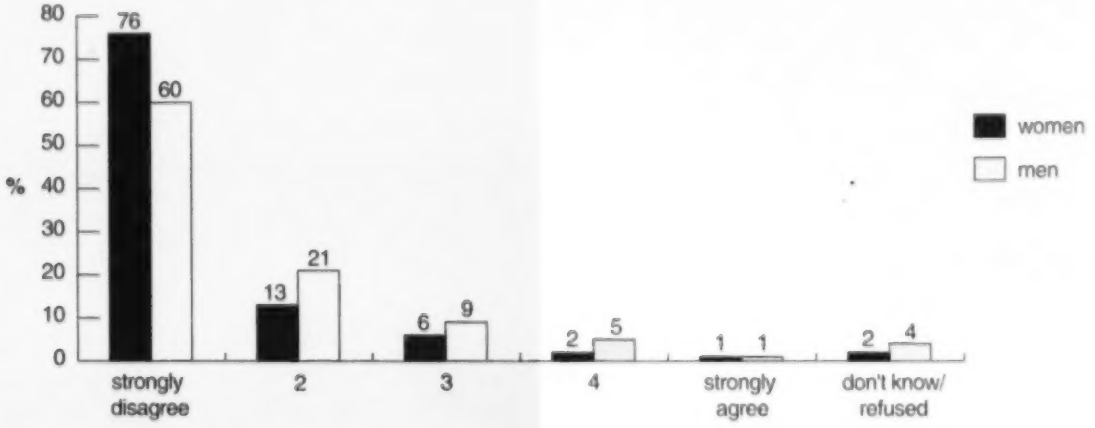


There was higher overall *agreement* with the statement from men (44% compared to 38% of women), First Nations people (47% compared to 40% of non-First Nations) and rural residents (44% compared to 39% of urban residents).

- **Family violence happens because one person is "asking for it"**

86% of people *disagreed* with the statement, of whom 69% *disagreed strongly*. Chart 13 shows that a higher percentage of women than men *disagreed strongly* with the statement.

Chart 13: 'Family violence happens because one person is "asking for it" ' shown by sex



Also, a higher percentage of non-First Nations *disagreed strongly* (72%, compared to 52% of First Nations), as did urban residents (73% *disagreed strongly* compared to 64% of non-urban). First Nations people were more likely to *agree* overall with the statement (10% *agreed/strongly agreed* compared to 4% of non-First Nations).

"Women who don't listen cause family violence."
(Non-First Nations man, rural)

If you grow up with family violence, you are more likely to abuse

One of the strongest predictors of wife assault is witnessing violence as a child (Statistics Canada 1998). In our survey, nearly three quarters *agreed* (70%) including a third who *strongly agreed* with the statement. A lower proportion of First Nations people agreed overall with the statement (57%, compared to 73% of Non-First Nations).

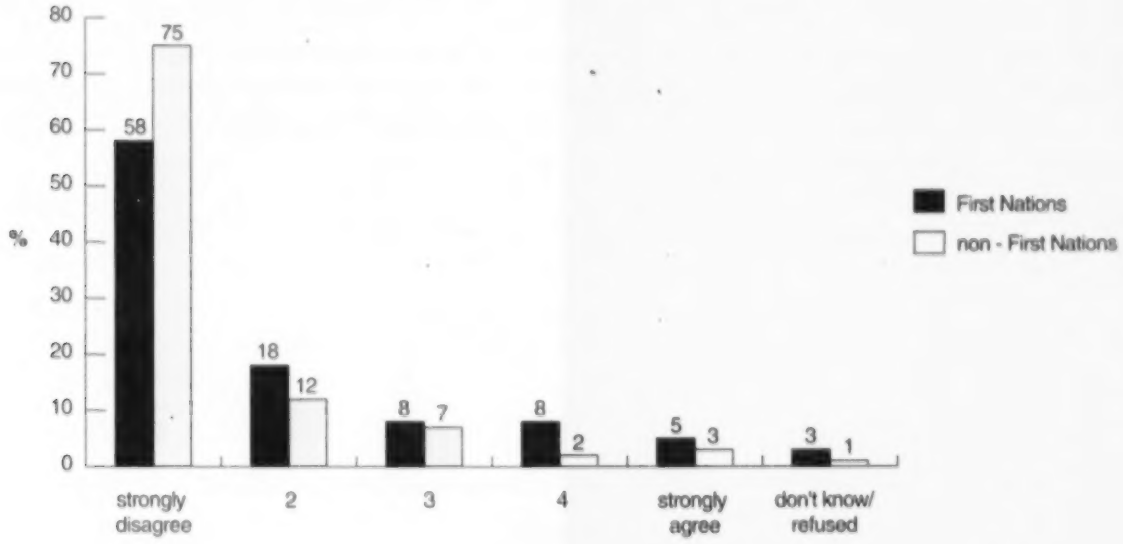
According to Statistics Canada the greatest predictor of wife assault is the use of emotional abuse by male partners. When emotional abuse is taken into consideration, *level of education, consumption of alcohol* and *income level* are **not** significant factors in predicting wife assault (Statistics Canada 1998).

2. RESPONSES TO FAMILY VIOLENCE:

Family violence that happens in private is no-one else's business

Overall, 85% of Yukoners surveyed *disagreed*, and three-quarters of these *disagreed strongly*. Five percent (5%) *agreed* that family violence that happens in private is no-one else's business. In chart 14, a higher percentage of First Nations *agreed* (13% compared to 5% of non-First Nations).

Chart 14: 'Family violence that happens in private is no-one else's business' shown by ethnicity

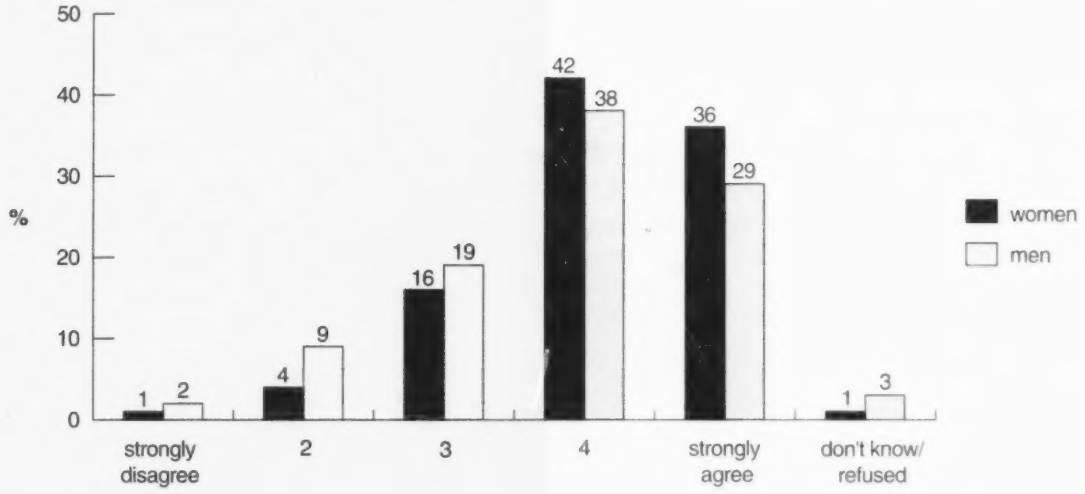


"This subject is everyone's business, not just those involved."
(Non-First Nations man, urban)

If family violence happens once, it will happen again

Three quarters (74%) *agreed* overall. Chart 15 shows that a higher proportion of women than men *agreed*.

Chart 15: 'If family violence happens once, it will happen again' shown by sex

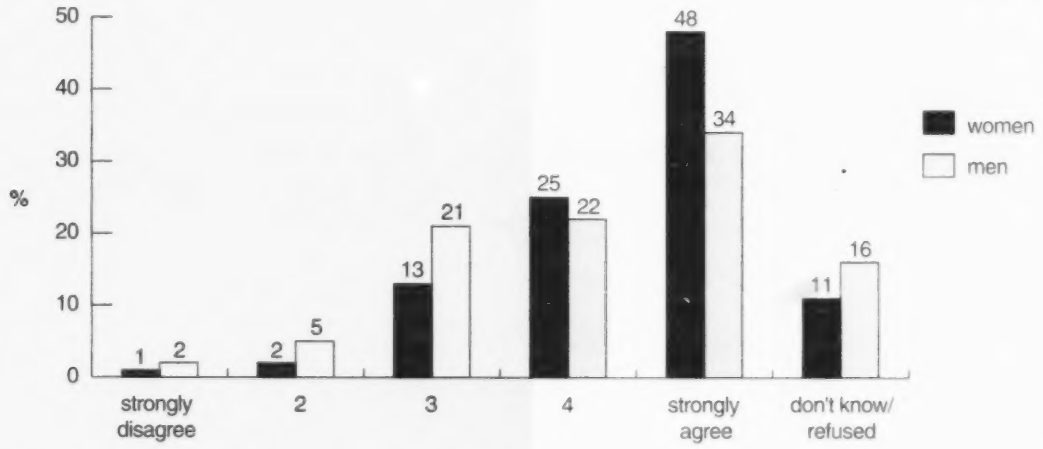


According to a review of predictors of family violence, about two thirds of male assaults of their female partner are repeated assaults, averaging about six times within one year (Saunders 1995).

- **Penalties for people convicted of family violence offences are not severe enough**

Two thirds *agreed* (65%) with 41% *agreeing strongly*. As shown in chart 16, three quarters of women and half of men thought penalties are not severe enough. A significant proportion of people (14%) said they *didn't know* or *refused* to say whether penalties are severe enough.

Chart 16: 'Penalties for people convicted of family violence offences are not severe enough' shown by sex



Rural Yukoners were more likely to *agree strongly* that penalties are not severe enough (45%) compared to 38% of urban dwellers.

"They should stop treating incidents of family violence lightly like they are now. It is hardly considered a crime."
(Non-First Nations man, rural)

There's nothing we can do to prevent family violence

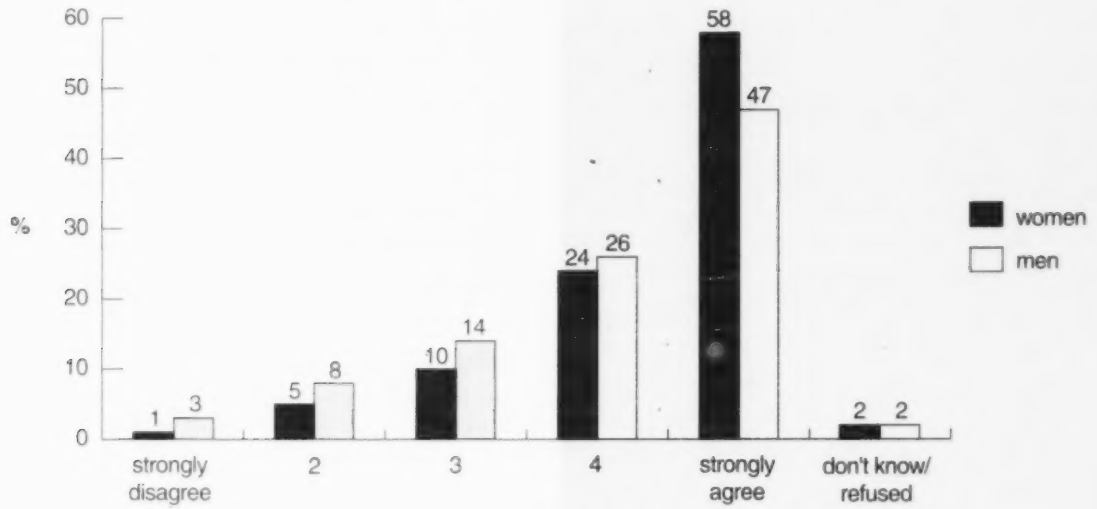
Most people, 86%, *disagreed*, of whom two thirds *strongly disagreed*. Women were more likely than men to *disagree strongly*, that is, to say there is something we can do to prevent family violence. Overall, 6% of Yukoners surveyed *agreed* that nothing could be done to prevent family violence.

> *"We need to make people more aware of what family violence is really about, make people feel safe about coming forward and create more resources so people know where they can go for help. Everyone should know about these things."*
>
> (First Nations man, rural)

All types of family violence should be reported

Overall 78% of Yukoners surveyed *agreed* that all types of family violence should be reported. In chart 17, women were more likely than men to *strongly agree*.

Chart 17: 'All types of family violence should be reported' shown by sex

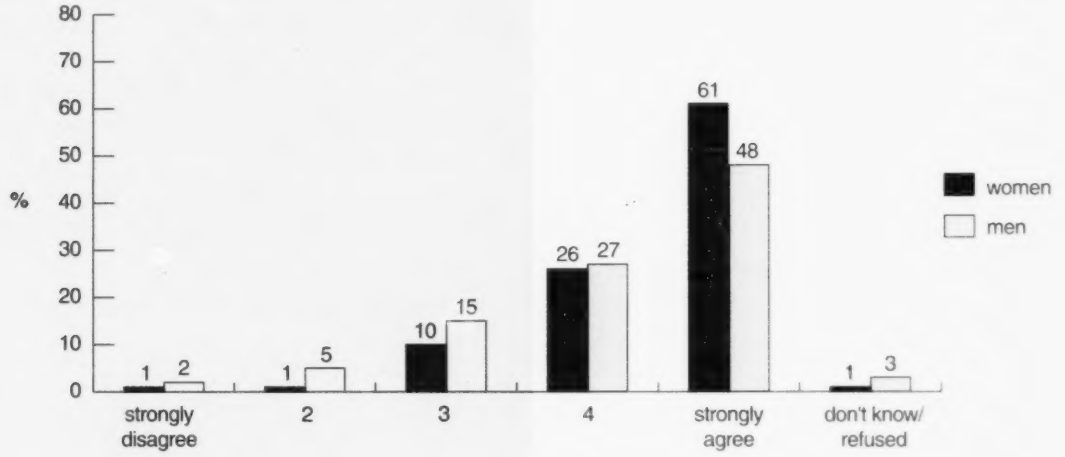


A higher percentage of First Nations *agreed strongly* with the statement (63% compared to 51% of non-First Nations), while non-First Nations were more likely to *disagree strongly* (9% compared to 3% of First Nations). Rural Yukoners were also more likely to *strongly agree* with the statement (58% compared to 49% of urban Yukoners). It is well established that only a proportion of family violence incidents are reported. In the 1993 Violence Against Women survey, a quarter of women who said they were in violent marriages reported assaults to the police (Status of Women Canada 1998).

If there was an incident of family violence at a neighbour's, you would call the police.

Overall 82% of Yukoners surveyed *agreed* that they would call the police. Chart 18 shows that a higher percentage of women than men *agreed strongly* that they would call the police.

Chart 18: 'If there was an incident of family violence at a neighbour's, you would call the police' shown by sex



First Nations were also more likely to *agree strongly* that they would call the police (61% compared to 54% of non-First Nations), as were rural residents (58% compared to 49% of urban dwellers).

Many people surveyed qualified their answers to say calling the police depended upon a number of factors particularly the severity of the incident.

"If it were a physical incident, I would definitely call the police."
(Non-First Nations woman, urban)

- **If there was an incident of family violence at a neighbour's, you would personally intervene**

Compared to the previous statement, Yukoners are less likely to personally intervene than they are to call the police. Overall, a third *agreed* that they would personally intervene. A higher percentage of First Nations *agreed strongly* that they would personally intervene (18% compared to 11% of non-First Nations). Women were more likely than men to *disagree strongly* regarding personal intervention (21% compared to 16% of men). Again, many people qualified their answers depending on their own situation and the incident itself.

"Depends upon if you know your neighbour. Sometimes it is better to leave it alone and phone the police."
(Non-First Nations man, rural)

3. ABUSE OF SENIORS AND ELDERS:

- **Abuse of seniors and elders is the result of family caregiver stress**

This statement did not elicit strong opinions, although more people *agreed* (33%) than *disagreed* (25%). Overall, 13% said they *did not know*, and men were more likely than women to say they *did not know* (18% compared to 9% of women). A higher proportion of First Nations Yukoners *agreed* overall with the statement (44% compared to 31% of non-First Nations). According to Statistics Canada the most widely accepted theory for elder abuse by caregivers is the presence of stressful situations such as the physical or mental impairment of the older person (Statistics Canada 2002).

Abuse of seniors and elders happens in the Yukon

Overall, two thirds (67%) *agreed* with the statement and 15% said they *did not know* or *refused* to answer. Overall, a higher percentage of First Nations *agreed* (73% compared to 66% of non-First Nations), as did rural Yukoners (71% compared to 64% of Whitehorse residents).

The GSS on Victimization found that 7% of seniors/elders had reported emotional abuse by an adult child, caregiver or spouse in the previous five years. A further 1% reported physical or sexual violence and 1% financial abuse (Statistics Canada 2002).

4. ABUSE OF CHILDREN:

If you suspect a child was being abused, you would report it

Virtually everyone (95%) *agreed* with this statement, 80% *agreed strongly*. Less than 1% *disagreed*. Those who *agreed strongly* were: women (83% compared to 76% of men) and rural residents (83% compared to 77% of urban residents).

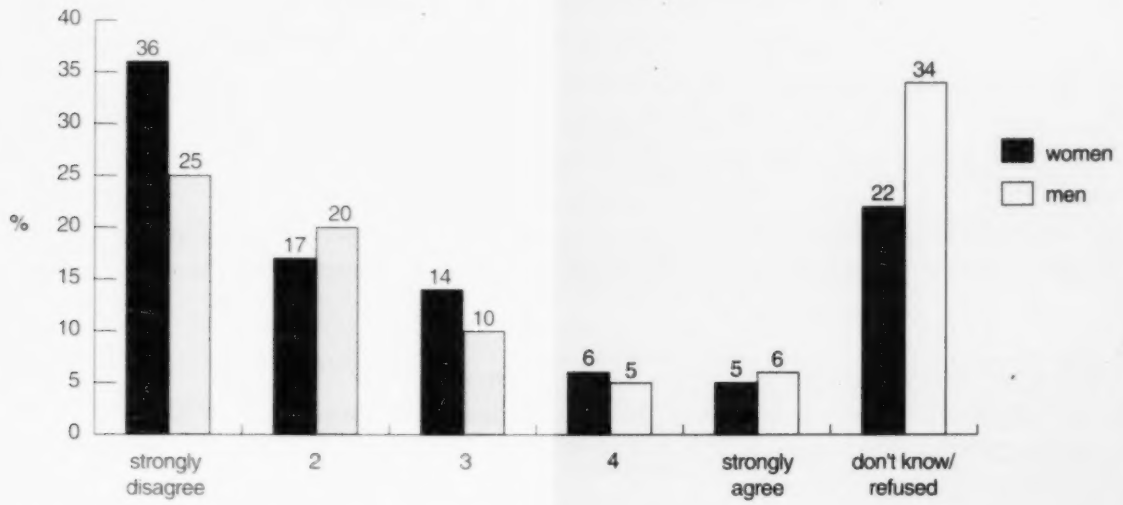
Statistics Canada report that of the 135,573 cases of child mistreatment reported to child welfare agencies in 1998 in Canada, 45% were substantiated (Statistics Canada 2001).

5. ABUSE OF WOMEN:

Physical abuse of a woman starts during pregnancy

Overall, nearly half *disagreed* (49%) and 12% *agreed*. However over a quarter (27%) said they *did not know/refused* to answer. Chart 19 shows that a higher percentage of women *disagreed strongly* with the statement; men were more likely to say they *didn't know/refused*.

Chart 19: 'Physical abuse of a woman starts during pregnancy' shown by sex



A higher percentage of First Nations Yukoners *agreed* overall that physical abuse of a woman starts during pregnancy (19% compared to 10% of non-First Nations). In his review of predictors of family violence Saunders found that some research indicates that the first episode of violence may be linked to a certain event including pregnancy, illness, moving house (Saunders 1995).

- **Women are sexually assaulted by someone they know**

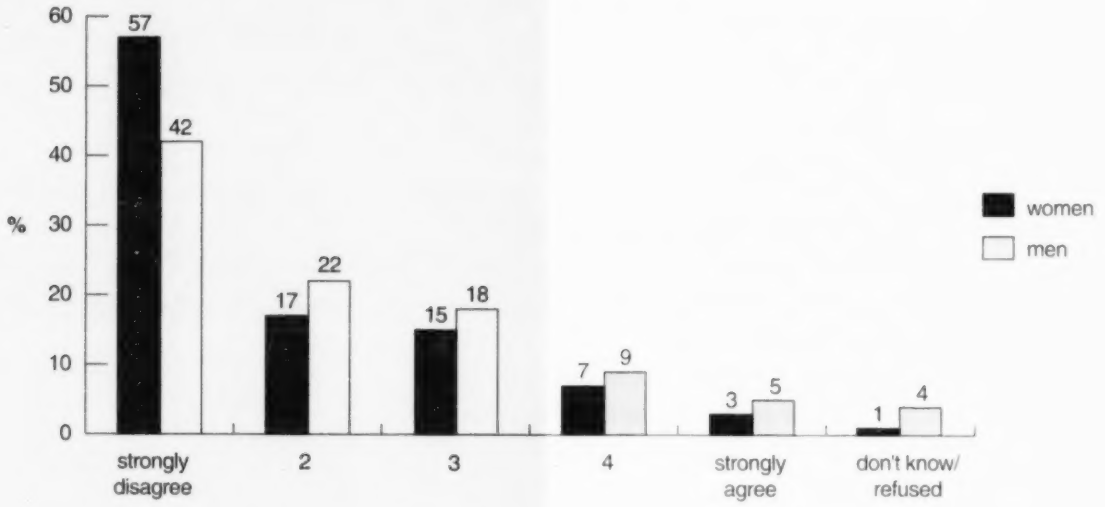
Overall, 72% *agreed* with the statement and 7% *disagreed*. First Nations were more likely to *agree strongly* (33% compared to 24% of non-First Nations).

Women are seven times more likely to be assaulted by someone they know than by a stranger (Canadian Woman Studies 1991).

- **Women invite sexual assaults by how they dress and act**

Overall, most people (70%) *disagreed* with the statement, although 12% *agreed*. In chart 20, women *disagreed strongly* with the statement more often than men did.

Chart 20: 'Women invite sexual assaults by how they dress and act' shown by sex



- **Women experience more severe violence than men do**

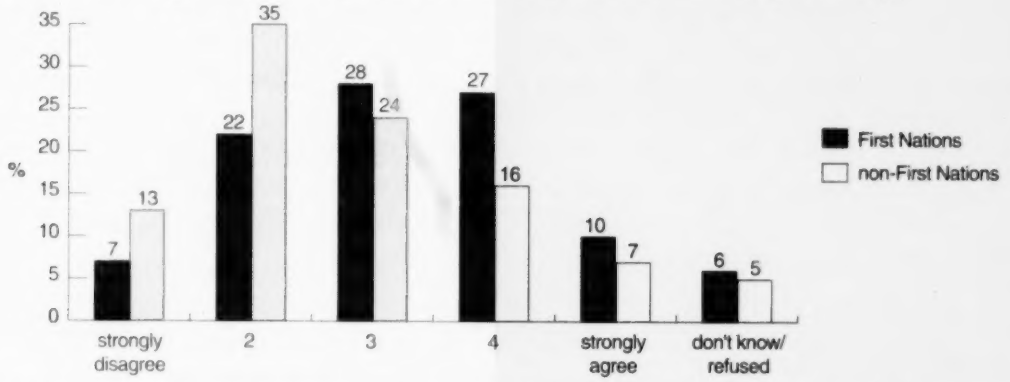
Most people, 70%, *agreed* with the statement while 10% *disagreed*. There were no significant differences in the answers given by the different groups surveyed.

According to the GSS on Victimization, female victims of spousal violence are five times more likely than male victims to have received medical attention or have been hospitalized (Statistics Canada 2002).

- **Abuse happens to men as often as it does to women**

More people *disagreed* (45%) than *agreed* (25%). First Nations were the group most likely to *agree* that abuse happens to men as often as it does to women. Chart 21 shows the responses to this question by ethnic group.

Chart 21: 'Abuse happens to men as often as it does to women' shown by ethnicity



While the GSS on Victimization shows similar rates of spousal assaults for women and men, police report statistics show that in 2000, 85% of victims were women (Statistics Canada 2002).

Q8 What services are you aware of that help people deal with family violence?
This was an open question to which most people provided several answers, these are shown in table 2.

Table 2: What services are you aware of that help people deal with family violence?

Service	Number	% (of 950)
Women's shelter (Kaushee's, Help & Hope)	397	42
RCMP/police	316	33
Yukon Family Services Association	230	24
Govt. Depts. – Health and Social Services, Women's Directorate, Dept. of Justice	214	23
Social Worker	134	14
Family Violence Prevention Unit	117	12
Counselling services	116	12
Religious organizations	116	12
Nursing/health clinic	101	11
Doctor/hospital	93	10
Alcohol and Drug services	64	7
Treatment programs	58	6
Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre	58	6
First Nation Wellness/Health Worker	55	6
School teachers/counsellors	46	5
Courts, prison and the legal system	36	4
Crisis/help line, telephone directory	35	4
Mental health services	25	3
Safe house	24	3
Friends, family, neighbours	24	3
First Nations organizations	22	2
Other (see below)	80	8

The category 'other' included support groups, human resources departments, services for seniors and elders, probation officers, social assistance, media and other information sources.

Sixty-seven (67) people, that is, 7% of those surveyed, said that they didn't know of any services.

In general, women and non-First Nations were more aware of the services available in the Yukon than were men and First Nations people. Whitehorse residents were more aware of services than rural residents, with the exception of social workers, the nursing/health clinic and First Nation Wellness/Health Worker, where rural residents had greater awareness.

Q9 Where would you go to get information or counselling if you or someone you knew was a victim of family violence?

This was an open question to which most people provided several answers. Table 3 shows that there was no single resource that most people said they would go to for information and counselling. The most common answer, the RCMP, was given by less than a quarter of respondents. One interpretation may be that Yukoners do not know where to start to find information or counselling about family violence.

Table 3: Where would you go to get information or counselling if you or someone you knew was a victim of family violence?

Service	Number	%
RCMP/police	221	23
Yukon Family Services Association	162	17
Govt. Depts. – Health and Social Services, Women's Directorate, Dept. of Justice	159	17
Women's shelter (Kaushee's, Help & Hope)	98	10
Social Worker	82	9
Family Violence Prevention Unit	69	7
Nursing/health clinic	69	7
Doctor/hospital	67	7
Religious organizations	48	5
Counselling services	46	5
Crisis/help line, telephone directory	38	4
Friends, family, neighbours	36	4
Victim Services	23	2
Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre	22	2
Workplace service – Employee Assistance Program, Human Resources	19	2
Information sources – library, Internet	18	2
First Nation Wellness/Health Worker	12	1
First Nation organization	11	1
School teachers/counsellors	10	1
Other (see below)	38	4

The category 'other' includes mental health and public health services, support groups, programs, courts and legal system, services for seniors/elders, and drug and alcohol related services.

The services women mentioned more commonly than men were women's shelters, the nursing/health clinic, counselling and medical services, and Yukon Family Services Association (YFSA). While men more commonly mentioned the police and government departments. First Nations more commonly identified counselling services, while for non-First Nations YFSA, religious organizations and medical services were more frequently mentioned. The services urban dwellers mentioned more commonly than rural residents were YFSA, the Family Violence Prevention Unit, and victim services, while for rural residents it was social workers and the nursing/health clinic.

"I don't know where to get information on services to help people deal with family violence and I've lived here my whole life."
(Non-First Nations man, urban)

Q10 Have you ever heard of the...
The survey asked people whether they had heard of two pieces of Yukon legislation – the Family Violence Prevention Act and the Children's Act.

More people had heard of the Children's Act (57%) than the Family Violence Prevention Act (50%)

Q11 Do you have any comments you would like to add?
Additional comments were made by 330 people. The majority of comments reinforced those made earlier in the survey and largely focused on the causes and prevention of family violence. The points identified below are those raised very frequently and new points not raised elsewhere.

MISSION SCHOOLS
The continuing impact of residential schools on the First Nations communities was highlighted.

"The majority of abuse comes from the mission school days. There needs to be a lot of healing based on that."
(First Nations woman, rural)

"We need to educate the public about what really went on in residential schools and why those people act the way they do."
(First Nations man, rural)

PENALTIES FOR ABUSERS
Many people reiterated their concern that penalties for family violence offences are not severe enough or are not fully imposed.

"I would like to see stronger action taken by courts because I don't believe offenders going through the legal system are given sentences that reflect the severity of their action."
(survey respondent)

SERVICES AND PROGRAMS:

Again, comments relating to service and program provision were re-emphasized:

- More funding for awareness campaigns, shelters, help-lines and for programs, and particularly in the communities;

"We need money for more counsellors in the communities, once a week just doesn't cut it."
(Non-First Nations woman, rural)

- The need for services for male victims of abuse; and

"Our community has a shelter for women and children but nothing for men. It doesn't happen so often but even if it happens to only one man he needs a safe place too, especially if we don't want him to retaliate."
(Non-First Nations woman, rural)

"All the surveys, newspaper articles, everything you hear about this issue is always geared toward women, not men."
(Non-First Nations man, rural)

- Shorter waiting times.

"There are counsellors available through family services, but the waiting list is long."
(First Nations woman, urban)

POSITIVE COMMENTS ABOUT THE SURVEY

There were a number of supportive comments made about the importance of this research.

"I think the survey is a really good thing, it's an excellent use of funds by the Women's Directorate."
(Non-First Nations woman, rural)

ABUSE OF ANIMALS

There was some mention of the link between violence towards pets and family members.

"I would include violence against animals too because it is a short step from there to violence against children and elders."
(Non-First Nations woman, rural)

REPORTING

Again people reiterated issues around reporting family violence, both the secrecy surrounding it and...

"In small northern communities, we are all aware of family violence; we see it and hear the stories. Yet a blind eye is turned. There is some code of silence, nobody does anything to stop it until someone is killed, and then we're all shocked."
(Non-First Nations woman, urban)

...the difficulties in attempting to report family violence.

"My personal experience of reporting family violence to the police was that nothing happened. It was not the police officer's fault, it was the system's."
(Non-First Nations man, rural)

Feminism

There were some comments made regarding the impact of feminism on relations between men and women and on family violence.

"I think there is an undercurrent of resentment among men about the success of feminism, it seems to have led to an increase in the worst kind of masculinity."
(Non-First Nations man, rural)

Role of the community

The role of the community in addressing and resolving family violence was mentioned again in the comments section.

"It is a situation we must all pitch in to help resolve."
(Non-First Nations man, rural)

"I think family violence is a very important issue that we need to deal with as a community."
(Non-First Nations man, urban)

REFERENCES

Action Committee Against Violence (1999) Survey on *Calgarians' Attitudes Towards Family Violence.* Angus Reid Group Inc.

Canadian Woman Studies (1991) volume 11, no. 4. York University, ON.

Manitoba Women's Directorate (2001) *Public Opinion on Domestic Violence Issues in Manitoba.* Probe Research Inc.

Prince Albert and Area Community Against Family Violence (2001) *Attitudes Towards Violence.* Angus Reid Group Inc.

Community Coalition for Family Violence Prevention (2000) *Family Violence Survey 2000.* Prince Edward Island: Bradford Associates.

Rodgers, Karen (1994) *Wife Assault in Canada.* Canadian Social Trends, No. 34.

Saunders, Daniel G. (1995) *Prediction of Wife Assault,* in Jacquelyn C. Campbell (ed) *Assessing Dangerousness: Violence by Sexual Offenders, Batterers and Child Abusers.* Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Statistics Canada (2002) *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile.* Ottawa: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. Catalogue number 85-224-XIE.

Statistics Canada (2001) *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile.* Ottawa: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. Catalogue number 85-224-XIE.

Statistics Canada (1998). *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile.* Ottawa: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. Catalogue number 85-224-XIE.

Status of Women Canada (1998) *Report by the Government of Canada to the UN Commission on Human Rights.* Ottawa.

Yukon Bureau of Statistics (2002) *Yukon Crime Statistics 1995-2001.*

Women's Directorate Publications

Counting Us In: A Statistical Profile of Yukon Women (1999).

Options, Choices, Changes (2002) Fourth edition of a publication for women in abusive relationships in the Yukon.

Yukon Family Violence Resource Directory (2001) Sixth edition.

APPENDIX

Table 4: Detailed characteristics of the sample

CHARACTERISTIC	Number	%
Gender	**943**	**100**
Male	424	45
Female	519	55
Age (years)	**935**	**100**
19-24	44	5
25-34	111	12
35-44	258	27
45-54	243	26
55-64	142	15
65+	137	15
Education	**904**	**100**
No high school	45	5
Some high school	159	18
Graduated high school	207	23
Some technical/trade school	75	8
Some university	124	14
Graduated college/university	294	32
Employment status	**811**	**100**
Working full-time	432	53
Working part-time	119	15
Unemployed, looking for job	70	9
Unemployed, not looking for job	27	3
Student	14	2
Retired	149	18
Household Income	**878**	**100**
Up to $15,000	64	7
$15,000 - $30,000	145	17
$30,000 - $50,000	212	24
$50,000 – $80,000	229	26
More than $80,000	167	19
Don't know	61	7

CHARACTERISTIC	Number	%
Marital Status	**874**	**100**
Single	179	20
Married	463	53
Separated	36	4
Common law	105	12
Divorced	91	11
Geography	**940**	**100**
Whitehorse (urban)	503	54
Rural	437	46
Ethnicity	**935**	**100**
First Nations	147	16
Non-First Nations	788	84
Household size (number of people)	**938**	**100**
1	226	24
2	321	34
3	150	16
4	155	17
5-9	86	9
Number of adults in household	**939**	**100**
1	278	30
2	577	61
3	58	6
4+	26	3
Number of children aged 0-6 in household	**870**	**100**
0	733	84
1	79	9
2	46	5
3+	12	2
Number of children aged 7-18 in household	**879**	**100**
0	594	68
1	140	16
2	102	11
3+	43	5

Precision

With a sample of 950, one can say with 95% certainty that the results are within +/-4% of what they would have been had the entire adult population of the Yukon been interviewed. The margin of error is higher within each of the survey sample sub-groups:

Sub-group	Precision
Men	+/- 5%, 95 times out of 100
Women	+/- 5%, 95 times out of 100
First Nations	+/- 8%, 95 times out of 100
Non-First Nations	+/- 4%, 95 times out of 100
Urban	+/- 5%, 95 times out of 100
Rural	+/- 5%, 95 times out of 100

Yukon

Women's Directorate